THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

बिहार में बेरोजगार युवकों को उचित दर दुकानों का आवंटन

1828. **श्री एस० एस० अहलुवालिया :** क्या नागरिक आपूर्ति, उपभोक्ता मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या बिहार में बेरोजगार युवकों को सहकारिता के आधार पर सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली के तहत उचित दर दुकानों का आबंटन करने की कोई योजना सरकार के विचाराधीन है,

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है, और

(ग) सरकार इस योजना को कब तक कार्यान्वित करने का विचार रखती है ?

नागरिक पूर्ति, उपभोक्ता मामले और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री कमालुद्दीन अहमद) : (क) से (ग) उचित दर की दुकानें खोलना और उनका आवंटन करना, हकदारी के मानदंड और विभिन्न वर्गों को वरीयता या आरक्षण देने से संबंधित मामले संबंधित राज्य सरकार/संघ राज्य क्षेत्र के प्रशासनिक अधिकारी क्षेत्र में आते हैं। किसी भी राज्य में, जिसमें बिहार शामिल है, बेरोजगार युवाओं को उचित दर की दुकानें आवंटित करने का कोई प्रस्ताव केन्द्रीय सरकार के विचाराधीन नहीं है।

Cases in Consumer fora

1829. PROF SAURIN BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) what has been the experience of the Government regarding measures to protect consumer's interests through consumer's fora;

(b) how many cases came before the consumers fora working in different parts of the country during the past three months; and

(c) how many prosecutions were made and in how many cases punishment was meted out ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) As a result of setting up of consumer fora, the consumer movement is gaining momentum in the country.

(b) The number of cases filed in State Commissions and District Fora, since inception and upto 31-12-1993, is as follows :—

State Commission	
Number of comlaints filed	16,179
Number of complaints disposed off	7,492
Number of complaints decided in favour of consumers	3,319
Number of appeals filed	20,453
Number of appeals desposed off	10,013
Number of appeals decided in vour of consumersof	3,986
District Fora	
Number of complaints filed	3,74,136
Number of complaints decided	2,20,928
Number of complaints decided in favour of consumers	1,06,162

(c) The fora deal with complaints main-: ly relating to defects in goods and deficient cies in services, for which redresSal is given

by way of removal of those defects, replacement of goods and by way of compensation. The question of prosecution or purishment arises only if these orders are not complied with.

1830. *[Transferred* to 18th *March* 1994.]

Amendments in the Consumer Protection Act and Standard of Weight and Measures Rule 1977.

1831. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry was considering to bring about amendments in the Consu mers Protection Act and Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Com modities) Rule 1977 to safeguard the in terests of the consumers; and

(b) if so, the action taken therein so far with details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) (1) The Consumer Protection Act, 1986 was amended on 27-8-93 with a view to enlarging the scope of the Act by including complaints relating to the following for seeking redressal:

(i) restrictive trade practices ;

(ii) goods purchased for self employment;

(iii) goods which are hazardous to life and safety. Further, services relating to "housing construction" have been included in the definition of "services" in the wider interest of the consumers.

(2) The Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Rules was amended on 26-8-1993 withdrawing the provision on fixing of additional labels on packages. This has been done to prevent exploitation o*t* the consumers by the trade by resoriting to price fixinge stickers with an enhanced price over and above the sale price declared by the manufacturers. .

Plight of Vanaspati Industries in the country

1832. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the plight of the Vanaspati industry in the country with a number of factories having been closed and majority of the remaining units working around 40 per cent of their capacity;

(b) if so, what exercise has been made by Government to identlfy the cause for growing sickness in the Vanaspati industry in the country; and

(c) what measures are contemplated by Government to revive the closed units and to make the Vanaspati Industry economically viable ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) Around 27 per cent of the vanaspati units are at present lying closed.

Overall capacity utilisation of the vanaspati units currently is around 44 per cent.

(b) Some of the causes identified for growing sickness in the vanaspati industry in the country are the disparity in the tax structure between new and existing vanaspati units in certain States, as also between vanaspati and refined oils comparatively reduced availability of raw materials, consumers' preference for refined oils in relation to vanaspati, obsolete nature of the plants and equipment, etc.

(c) Some of the measures taken by the Government to improve the situation are fiscal incentives for use of certain specified ; oi's in the manufacture of vanaspati, re-• duction in the excise duty on vanaspati by Rs. 400 per M. T. in 1993-94 budget, con-jj cessional rate of custonl duty on certain